

Grievances  
(Notes from Chapman Collection)

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SOUTHFIELD BRANCH



## Grievances

Resolved that the Griev of  
P & Q, 1 of W & Survey concerning  
the Standard of Spanish money  
be referred till ye reversed  
Law be taken into consideration  
Resolved that the griev. of 1 of W.  
complaining that the allowance of  
40 lb of Tobacco a day for  
evidences attendances in Court is  
too much be rejected.  
Resolved that ye Griev of 1 of W & G.  
complaining that no allowance is

## Grievances

Apr 22, 1684  
The 1 of W. Co. Griev  
read & Committed

1st 21 - 198

J. H. & B

1 of W Grievances in  
1688.

Pg. 298

## Grievances

Tale of wright among several His-  
counties setting forth the great  
mischiefs & inconveniences to trade  
& commerce arising by the uncertain  
value of foreyne coins & the  
recourses of several persons, referring  
to take both foreyn & English coins  
& praying that a law may be made  
for the remedy thereof by ascertaining  
& regulating the value of foreyn  
coins & English hammered &  
clift money which being duly  
weighed & maturely debated &  
considered the house agreed with  
the report of the Com. that it is  
absolutely necessary for the  
good of the country & therefore  
the house resolved to resolve into a Com of the  
whole house tomorrow morning to  
take into consideration the ascertaining  
the value of several sorts of coins  
in order to the preparing a bill  
accordingly - May 8 - 1694.  
J. H. & B 1st 3 - 148.



## Isle of Wight Grievances.

Wee have seen the declaratione from his Majesties Hon'ble Commissioners to the poore yet his Ma'jes most Loyall subjects of the Isle of Wight Countie wee have presumed to return this to your Honors that wee have ~~the~~ cause to believe ther are many persons who have endeavored to infuse into you verry sinister opinions of our proceedings in relation to the disturbance which was in this country the which to the outmost of our Knowledges and intents wee will declare. Wee having a long time layen under great oppressions, and evrie year being more and more opprest with great taxes, and still doe load us with greater and unnecessarie burdens; it was enacted by the Gov't and assembly for the building of forts back in the woods upon severall great mens Hands, under pretence of securtie for us against the Indians, which we perceaving and verry well knowing that ther pretence was no securitie for us, but rather a ruin to the countre, which was the cause of our rising with intents to have our taxes Lowered, not that we rose in any in any ways of Rebellion against our most dreed Sovereaign Lord the King as by our actions may appeare, for wee noe sooner rose but wee sent in a petione and our agrievances to S'r Wm Berkeley, Knt., who was not at home but the Ladie Berkeley promised shee would acquent his Hon'r with our business, and by her request or comand, wee evrie man retuned home, and as for our being in armes wee was commanded thereto by one act of Gov'r, Counsell and Assembly.

2ly. After this it was the Governor's pleasure to send an order for a new election of Burgesses which was in May last, to the best of our remembrance, the which was done according to his order, which privledge we had not in twelve years before, soe wee all expected redress from this Assembly, but nothing answered but only to the Indian Warr, ther was fifty seven men Leavied for to go out of Isle of Wight County under the command of Nathaniel Bacon, a person wee knew not nor till that time never heard of, though notwithstanding in reference to the command of the Gov'r and Assembly our men was raised and sent with two months provisione at which tyme, when as our men was gone and under the command of Squire Bacon, S'r Wm. Berkeley was raising of men against them in Gloster to the quantitie of fower or five hundred men, as wee are credibly informed, whom when they understood upon what account they were raised, told his Hon'r to fight against thee county men, neighbors and friends they would not, upon which the Gov'r went away and all the great men whither wee know not and left us as sheep without a shepherd to the mercy of the heathen, yet under the command of Nathional Bacone and this as much as wee can say of this disturbance.

3ly. As to our oppressions where as Col. Joseph Bridger for intertaining of Col. Wm. Coole, Col Charles Morison, Col. Lambe Masone two or three dayes in dividing of the Counties had between fourteen or fifteen thousands pounds of tobacco from our countrie which we humbly conceive is on great oppression.

4ly. That Col. Bridger had fined severall for not coming to trouping or else where which were fined some one hundred, 200, 300 pounds of tobacco, all the which wee desire to know to what use it is put and that it may be produced for a public good it amounting to severall <sup>thousands</sup> pounds of tobacco, the which we do not suppose Col. Bridger makes use to his own private Interest.

5ly. Whereas formerly it was accounted a great leavie that was 40 or 50 pounds of tobacco per each when we wer not half soe many tithables and a continuall warr to be maintained, and now wee know noe occasion extraordinarie, yet wee paying neer two hundred a head yearly, but for what we know not.

6ly That great quantities of Tobacco that was Leavied upon the poor people to the building of houses at James town, which was not made habitable but fell down befor they were finished.



2. 7ly That notwithstanding the great quantities of amunitione payd by snipe. & fort duties for the countries service and considerable summes of tobacco raised to maintain a magazine yet upon all occasions wee are forced to provide powder and shott at our proper charges or else fined.

8ly. That wee have been compelled to buy ourselves gunnes, Pistls and other arms to maintain severall of our comandrs Hon'rs and keep our ourselves from fining haveing been severall tymes threaten befor wee could procure them which some of us bought it at a dear rate of them have now taken them away from us, the which wee desire to be restored to us again.

9ly The more to encourage the Indians against us they have sent severall of them out armed to look after our Christian Neighbors who are gone somewhere to secure themselves

10ly. That severall p'rsons estates are ceased and part taken away before the owner is convicted of any crime, notwithstanding they layed hold of the hon'ble Gov'r act of indemnitie and have taken the oath of Allegiance to his gracious Ma'je and fidilitie to his Ma'jes Gov'r.

11ly. Wee desire our Burgesses to give none of our estates away as formerly ye have done, but if ye must give such great summes dispose of your own.

12. Whereas it was formerly a custom for Sheriffs to remaine in ther place but one year, now it is altered, for they doe find such a great benefit by it, that they will buy the office, and holdit two years soe that they predominate over the poor cometrie whereas the sheriffs are allowed ten pound for evrie hundred that hogshead contains besides his sellarie, he allowes us but thirtie the which wee desire he may be taken off from it or allow us as much.

13. Also wee desire that ther may be a continuall warr with the Indians that we may have once have done with them.

14. Wee desire wee may have libertie to choose our Vestries once in three years and that their may noe member of the Court be therein.

15. That noe Counsellor may sit in any inferior Court.

16. Also wee desire that everie man may be taxed according to the tracts of Land they hold.

17. That Major Powell had a hundred pounds of tobacco a day, for going along with the Gentlemen who divided the counties, being as wee conceive nothing concerned.

18. And more to be exact he had twelve pounds of tobacco per poole to buy as amunitione, the which we never had.

19. Wee desire you our Burgesses to call to accompt and examine the collectors for the collecting of the 2s and 2d a hogshead, which has been this many yeares received but to what use it is put wee the poor, ignorant inhabitants knows, nor how disposed off being sensible that the Marchant exhaust the same in selling his goods and that we pay it, and how and by what power and law the collector demands 2d a hogshead for what wee doe requist to know and if not Regall to dissamull it for the futur wee do humbly conceive that the 2s a hogshead was raised for to discharge our countries taxes, therefor we desire our Burgesses to admitt our Hon'ble Gov'r. to have his just dew out of it, which is 12 hundred pounds a year and the remainder to assist us the poor inhabitants toward these great burdens and taxes which wee groan under this many yeares being not further able to bear it.

20. That by a late act of the Grand Assembly to load us with furter taxes hath enacted forts to be built in severall places of this Collonie, which is as wee humbly conceive for nothing else, but for the private use of some particular persons and not att all for the commons good neither to our certaine knowledge any wayes a defence



for us, against our most Barbarous enemies who are as we humbly conceive to much favoured, emboldened and encouraged, to warr with us but not wee with them, being bound absolutely to the peace as our apprehensions tells us, by that Act. Wee therefore desire that wee may not be burdened by the building of the fors'd forts nor that wee have any built and that they may be quite taken off and quitted from all and evrie one of the pretended charges that may or shall be presented by any, let them be of what nature and qualitie soever they may be, pretended as an order to the erecting of the afores'd forts we not being able to undergoe soe chargeable a compulsion wherein ther is nether securitie nor defense.

21. Wee doe also desire to know for what purpose or use the late publique leavies of 50 pounds of tobacco and cask per poll and the 12 pounds per polle is for and what benefit wee are to have for it, which if it be for our, or our children's good and that it doth plainly appear soe wee are willing to the payment thereof, but otherwise those that have received our tobacco to return it to us again to the relief of ourselves and poor families being verrie unable to pay it.

22. Wee desire to know for what wee doe pay our Leavies evrie year and that it may noe more be layd in private but that we may have free libertie to hier and see evrie particular for what it is raised and that ther may noe more fifts be given to noe particular person or persons what soever nether in publick or by private which hath been only means to make us poore and miserable.

23 Whereas formerly it was the custome of Master of Shípes to pay the Castle duties in powder and shott which was a saftie for this Gollony att all times, and at war against our Indian enemy or others which should assault us, now it is as wee understand converted and that dewly altered by payiny it in shoes, stockens, linnen and other merchantable goods as the Collectors pleaseth, and disposed of to ther own advantages, being noe profit or care to country or people, nor noe ease to our intollerable taxes therefor wee desire yor Hon'rs to have an account of this great bank of money and where it lyes that it may be produced for the country's good and for the futur that it may be payed in Powder and shott as formerly and remaine as a Magazine for the service of Countrie.

24. Whereas ther are some great persons both in honor rich in Estat and have severall wayes of gaines and profitts are exempted from paying Leavies and the poorest inhabitants being compelled to pay the great taxes which we are burdened with having a hogshead or two of tobacco to pay for rent and near two hundred yearly for Leavies having a wife and two or three children to maintain whither our taxes or not the greater by such favour and priviledges granted them which wee desire to be eased of by ther paying of Leavies as well as wee, they having noe necessitie from being so exempted.

25. And as for the oath that was sent down to us by Nath. Bacone was first concluded by severall of the militia officers, Leftenant Col'll Arture Smith being the chief in our countie, who was with Squire Bacone at the middle plantation and ther receded the oath yet soe as Saving our aleagiance to the King.

Whereas ther are severall clerks in county courts hath enacted ther fees on severall persons and especially upon widdows and orphans to both ther ruins, wee desire that a certain rate may be put upon the administration And all other fees thereunto belonging.

Wee also desire you who are the Majessties Commissioners for to take a vew or cause to be taken of the forts that we have heir made which have cost the country many hundred thousands pounds of tobacco and that wee conceive that one fort at Point Comfort had been better and more securer for the King and country, for had ther



7 )  
been a fort ther by all mens relatione the Dutch had never attempted to a come  
up the river and burned soe many slupes as they did.

(Signed)

Richard Penny

A very busy man in these tymes.

John Marshall

Richard Sharpe

Richard Jordan, Senior,

One of Bacon's Representatives.

Edward Miller,

A harmless poor man.

John # Davis

(His mark)

One that hath been in armes ag't ye  
Government.

Antho FFulgham.

A busy p'son that brought this paper  
to the rest to subscribe which was  
written by Marshall's Serv't att the  
desire of the subscribers hereof.

(Indorsed)

Isle of Wight Grievances

Brought March 5

For the Burgesses

To bee purused and Returned

To His Ma'ties Com'rs.

(Signed) S'd Wiseman.

(In pencil 5 March,)

1676-7.